

ects (Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy, Wetlands Initiative) are improving prospects for recovery of the middle and lower Illinois River systems. These habitat management activities should eventually result in improved habitats for both wintering and breeding eagles.

Our data for Bald Eagles should serve as a reminder of the importance of careful, accurate counting of all species of birds. Illinois birders can participate in and enjoy many counts including the Illinois Audubon/IOS Statewide Spring Bird Count, Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, Cornell Project Feeder Watch, Audubon/Cornell Big Backyard Count, and more. All of these have social and competitive dimensions, but they are also quasi-scientific. Some ensure quality control with a cadre of professionals. We should participate as citizen scientists. As such, in our quest for biodiversity, we may be able to help with the recovery of endangered species, and conservation biology in general, by generating reliable data to help redirect scarce resources from a few large, charismatic species, such as the Bald

Eagle, to species and systems underfunded. Careful monitoring of the Bald Eagle should continue. Despite the presence of people and the condition of the system, its recovery to date is a success story in Illinois. It is essential that we enumerate species as correctly as possible, neither overstating nor understating the status of species or systems.

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Appendix A. Effort on 30 CBCs Centered at CNWR

| Decade | Mean # Participants | Mean # Party Hours | Mean # Eagles/ Party Hour |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1973-82 | 20.0 | 58.5 | 0.38 |
| 1983-92 | 22.6 | 60.5 | 1.01 |
| 1993-02 | 19.4 | 53.7 | 1.56 |

Appendix B. Age-ratios of Bald Eagles from Personal Communications

| Date | Location | Immature Number / % | Observer |
|--------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 16 Jan 2002 | Havana to Beardstown | 111 of 206(54%) | Robert Chapel |
| 17 Jan 2002 | Pekin | 64 of 104(61%) | Sig Bjorklund |
| 18 Jan 2002 | Lake Meredosia | 26 of 43(60%) | Ross Adams |
| All Jan 2002 | Spring Bay upriver from Peoria | Fewer roosting than 2001 but still 50% immature | Randy Root |